

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. – 12 (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) A method for instant messaging in a network communication system comprising:

formulating a combined message to a recipient, said combined message including a predictive code and a communications message;

establishing a state variable associated with said recipient, wherein said state variable includes a function;

transmitting said predictive code and said communications message to a recipient;

executing the predictive code at the recipient; and

delivering the communications message to the recipient if the predictive code returns a first value and discarding the communications if the predictive code returns a second value.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13 further including:

transmitting a modifying code to the recipient that causes a persistent state associated with the recipient to be modified.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 45 13 wherein said state variable corresponds to one or more aspects of a state of said recipient.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 45 13 wherein said state variable is namespaced based on a selected sender of a message.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 45 13 wherein said state variable includes ~~at least one of a function and~~ one or more parameters.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 45 13 wherein said parameters include at least one of a state variable name, a sender, and a recipient.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 45 13 wherein said state variable is at least one of modified by a sender, determined by selected code operating at said recipient, and updated by selected code operating at said recipient.

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 45 13 further including storing ~~a~~ the state variable on a server separate from a recipient.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13 wherein said code evaluates a state of said recipient.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22 wherein said a state of said recipient includes whether a messages has been previously received.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13 further including establishing a security mechanism at a recipient to ensure that code transmitted to, and executed at, a recipient is noninvasive.

25.-28. (Cancelled)